



COUNTRY PROFILES

CAMBODIA SNAPSHOT

Independence day: Nov 9, 1953

Total Areas: 181, 035 Km²

Capital: Phnom Penh

Population: 13.4

GDP Per Capita: \$310

For more information, please

see: www.usaid.gov

Keyword: Cambodia

IMPORTANT CAMBODIA POLITICAL FIGURES:

King: Norodom Sihamoni

President, National Assembly:

Norodom Ranariddh

President, Senate: Chea Sim

Prime Minister: Hun Sen

OVERVIEW

Cambodia ranks among the poorest countries in the world. It has the highest infant, child and maternal mortality rates in Asia, and faces one of the most serious HIV/AIDS epidemics in the region. The country also struggles with the legacies of war, genocide, foreign occupation and corruption. Against this backdrop, U.S. objectives in Cambodia include promoting democratic practices, strengthening good governance, protecting human rights and fighting disease and poverty.



CHALLENGES

Cambodia faces significant challenges in its efforts to spur desperately needed economic growth, private sector investment and higher employment. Roughly 80 percent of Cambodians are engaged in subsistence agriculture, a sector with insufficient productivity to

provide jobs for a labor force that is growing at more than five percent annually. Its two principal growth sectors – garments and tourism – employ no more than a tenth of the labor force.

The genocidal Khmer Rouge regime (1975-79) and occupation by Vietnam (1978-89) had a devastating impact on Cambodian institutions and human capacity. Cambodia has achieved some modest economic successes, recently meeting its overall targets for revenue, expenditures and domestic financing while maintaining low inflation and a stable exchange rate. Its trade system has also opened up, resulting in Cambodia being fast-tracked for ascension to the World Trade Organization in 2004.

Cambodia's education system faces high pupil/teacher ratios, averaging 53 to 1. A recent UNESCO report estimated adult literacy rate at 37 percent. Primary school completion for both males and females also remains low.

IMPORTANT HEALTH FIGURES:

Infant Mortality: 95 per 1,000 live births

Child under-five Mortality: 125 per 1,000 live births

Maternal Mortality: 437 per 100, 000 live births

Tuberculosis incidence: 540 per 100, 000 populations

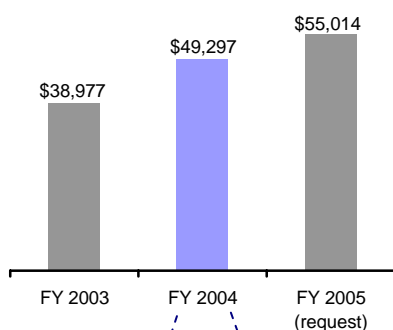
HIV seroprevalence rate among 15-49 years: 1.9%

Life expectancy at birth: 54.4 years

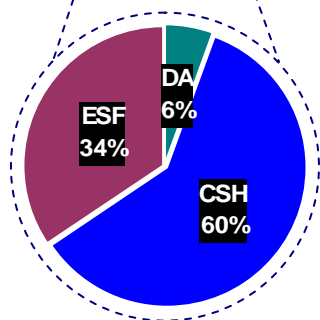
Health conditions remain poor for most Cambodians. Life expectancy is in the mid-50s, population growth is 2.5 percent, and infant mortality is 95 per 1000. Half of all children under the age of five are malnourished and 20 percent are severely stunted. A decline in HIV prevalence in Cambodia from 3.3 percent in 1998 to 2.6 percent in 2002 is encouraging. However, even a rate of 2.6 percent ranks as the highest in Asia.

The 1991 Paris Peace Accords ended decades of civil war and led to the establishment of important governing institutions, including the National Assembly and Senate. The July 2003 National Assembly election were the third since the accords were signed. Such achievements, however, have been marred by the specter of ongoing human rights abuses and corruption. In addition, Cambodia is a source and destination country for persons trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor.

Due to political violence in 1997, the U.S. government suspended and later terminated all foreign assistance to Cambodia except for humanitarian and democracy programs administered by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In 2002, an interim strategy was approved that expanded the program to include health, HIV/AIDS, democracy and governance and primary education. A new long-term strategy is now being discussed that would likely take effect in September 2005.



Percent of FY 2004 Budget for Each Program Area



USAID in Cambodia

Budget (\$000)

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005 (request)
DA	\$3,687	\$2,750	\$9,450
CSH	\$22,100	\$29,560	\$28,700
ESF	\$13,189	\$16,987	\$16,864
TOTAL	\$38,977	\$49,297	\$55,014

The current USAID program in Cambodia focuses on the following three areas:

1. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

The USAID democracy strategy focuses on increasing political participation, strengthening human rights and improving political processes. Last year, USAID-funded activities also sought to promote a level playing field for the July 2003 elections. Although a new government activities also sought to promote a level playing field for the July 2003 elections.



Candidate from CPP, SRP, and
FUNCINPEC party debate in Prey Veng
during the election campaign in July
2003



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The elections witnessed greater openness in terms of political debate, media coverage and balloting. USAID also offers support to political parties that meet international standards for transparency and accountability and will help strengthen these parties as they become members of the Assembly. Finally, USAID supports efforts by the Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs, the International Office of Migration and (through the Asia Foundation) international and Cambodian NGOs that are working to prevent the trafficking of women and children.

2. HIV/AIDS AND FAMILY HEALTH

USAID health programs support Cambodia's efforts to increase access to health services and to mitigate and prevent the effects of HIV/AIDS. USAID programs have contributed to significant reductions in infant, child and maternal mortality, as well as in HIV/AIDS prevalence, particularly among key target groups. A new integrated health/HIV/AIDS program builds on innovative outreach and development approaches for the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS, and for improved coverage for child survival and maternal health programs. Cambodia is a USG "rapid-scale-up" country for HIV/AIDS assistance, further expanding the funding available to address HIV/AIDS issues.

3. EDUCATION

USAID seeks to increase the relevance to everyday life of the basic education curriculum and to improve teaching techniques and skills. The project works to raise the quality and relevance of curricula and teaching materials, to equip teachers with improved techniques and skills and to increase the number of communities involved in their schools. This in turn should increase the number of children receiving quality education in Cambodia.